

10 DEC 1975

SOVIET 'VIOLATION' OF PACT DISCUSSED

NEW YORK TIMES

Kissinger, Henry

01291 SALT

Ford, Gerald

Kissinger Explains Process for Examining Charges of Arms Accord Breaches

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger opened the lid a bit today on the normally super-secret subject of alleged Soviet violations of the 1972 accords to limit strategic arms.

The topic is heavily classified involving the most sophisticated intelligence-gathering equipment and the most sensitive negotiations.

Until now the Administration has refused to discuss at length the recurring charges from its critics that it did not sufficiently hold the Russians accountable for compliance with the two 1972 agreements.

The agreements limit each side's defensive missiles—the antiballistic missiles—and froze for five years the number of land-based and submarine-launched offensive missiles.

In a news conference, Mr. Kissinger said that initial reports of possible Soviet violations were made known to the Administration initially through intelligence channels—the Central Intelligence Agency or the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Responsible Panels Listed

He said that the reports were dealt with by these groups:

A special intelligence committee set up by the C.I.A. in the summer of 1973, which meets four times a year and issues a report each time on Soviet compliance with the 1972 accords. These reports, Mr. Kissinger said, go directly to the President and every senior member of the Administration dealing with the negotiations on strategic arms.

The verification panel of the National Security Council, with representatives from key agencies, which has met four times on compliance issues and 40 times on other matters relating to strategic arms.

The verification panel working group, which has met 11 times since the middle of 1973.

The National Security Council itself, headed by the President, which has met once to discuss compliance questions.

President Briefed

In addition, in an effort to rebut Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, who charged in Senate testimony on Dec. 2 that President Ford had been kept in ignorance of reported Soviet violations, Mr. Kissinger said that the President had been briefed on compliance matters 10 times since 1973, six of them since he became President in August, 1974. He also said that Mr. Ford received two special C.I.A. reports every morning and that he read them.

Mr. Kissinger said that the verification panel working group decided what to do about an alleged violation and either listed options or made a recommendation to the full verification panel, which performed the same function for the National Security Council.

The votes in the verification panel have always been unanimous, Secretary Kissinger said.

Discussing actual allegations against the Russians, Mr. Kissinger said the most serious one, closest to an actual violation, was a charge that the Russians had been testing anti-aircraft radar in an "ABM mode" but that after this was brought to Moscow's attention in January 1975, the activity stopped. It has not been resumed, he said.

Report on Silos Recalled

This allegation as well as others cited in the news conference have been reported in The New York Times. Mr. Kissinger noted that in June 1973, while Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist party leader, was in Washington conferring with President Richard M. Nixon, reports were received of unusual construction of additional missile silos by the Russians in apparent violation of the accord.

On June 26 the United States sent a note to the Russians "in the Presidential channel" raising the issue of possible violation, he said.

The message, he declared, was kept highly secret. The Russians replied that the silos were for command and control centers, a view shared by the C.I.A., and now, Mr. Kissinger said, the issue is dead.

He said that reports of new Soviet antiballistic missile radar equipment in the Kamchatka Peninsula on the Pacific coast being studied but that this was at most a "technical" problem since the Russians, if they requested it, would probably be permitted the use of Kamchatka as an A.B.M. test site in compliance with the 1972 accord.